

8 APR 1976

STAT

WASHINGTON POST

China Fires Teng, Raises Hua to No. 2

By H. D. S. Greenway
Washington Post Foreign Service

HONG KONG, April 7—The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party today announced the dismissal of Teng Hsiao-ping from all his positions "inside and outside the party" and the promotion of acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng as prime minister and first vice chairman of the Communist Party.

The promotions apparently raise Hua to the No. 2 position in the Chinese hierarchy after Mao. (Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush, former U.S. envoy in Peking, said in Washington that the appointment of Hua "should be a stabilizing influence on recent events" in China. He added that he did not expect recent disorders in China to adversely affect U.S. relations with Peking.)

In a move that was officially linked to Monday's violent demonstrations in Peking, the ruling Politburo, under the instructions of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, unanimously agreed to the dismissal of Teng, thus climaxing the virulent leftist attack that has been mounted against Teng since Chou En-lai's death in January.

Until today, Teng held the posts of senior vice premier and chief of staff of the army, and was No. 4 in the party hierarchy. Until January he appeared to be Chou's chosen successor.

In a move that caught most China watchers by surprise, however, Hua was named acting premier in January when the campaign against Teng first began. Now Hua officially succeeds Chou En-lai as premier of China, a more important position than the one held by Teng.

Hua replaces the 40-year-old Wang Hongwen, who, as No. 3 under Mao and Chou, should have in-

herited the No. 2 spot of first vice chairman.

This move is being interpreted here as a compromise that denied the so-called radical element, of which Wang is a member, the No. 2 position in the party. The leftists may have been successful in blocking Teng from power but they have not succeeded in promoting one of their own hard-core radicals.

Hua, whose rise has been fast, was little known outside China before he was made acting premier. He had been minister of public security and held agricultural posts.

Only four months ago, Teng was the chief host to President Ford during his visit to China.

Today, the Politburo said it had decided to fire Teng after "having discussed the counter-revolutionary incident that took place at Tien An Men Square and Teng

Hsiao-ping's latest behavior." A news release said the Monday rioters were "openly hoisting the ensign of supporting Teng Hsiao-ping."

The New China News Agency blamed "a handful of class enemies" who it said had "engineered an organized, premeditated and planned counter-revolutionary incident" in the demonstrations.

It is clear that Monday's violent demonstrations in Peking brought the campaign against Teng to a head. The official New China News Agency, in an hour-by-hour account of Monday's events, branded the demonstrations as the work of class enemies who "engineered and organized, premeditated and planned counter-revolutionary political incidents of Tien An Men Square in the capital."

Although the demonstrations are officially branded as "rightist," today's announcement does not resolve the leadership crisis. Who replaces Teng as chief of staff of the army is still unknown.

The official announcement said that Teng would

be allowed to keep his membership in the Communist Party, which is typical of the Chinese way of handling disgrace. The possibility of rehabilitation is held open, no matter how remote.

Teng Hsiao-ping was purged once before, in the Cultural Revolution 10 years ago, but under the patronage of Chou he was rehabilitated to be the second most powerful man in China after Mao upon Chou's death.

Today, he is purged again, but the appointment of Hua as No. 1 in the government and No. 2 in the party indicates that the moderates and leftists have had to make yet another compromise, as Hua is not associated with either camp.

If this is the case, the present political instability may break out again and again as leftists and rightists jockey for position following the death of Chou and in anticipation of the death of Mao.

Official Resurfaces After Rumored Attack

Reuter

PEKING, April 7. — Speculation about the political demise of Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien ended today with an announcement that he had met a new envoy from Laos. It was the first time Li, China's top economic planner, has been referred to publicly since January.

Rumors that Li was under a political cloud grew from reports that he had been attacked and linked with Teng Hsiao-ping in provincial wall posters.